

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for restoring a path in a communication system between zones comprising:
establishing an inter-zone link with a first border node of a source zone with a second border node of an adjacent destination zone;
identifying an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the adjacent destination zone;
identifying a pre-planned alternative route;
informing a ~~source/destination~~ node in of the adjacent destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;
informing a node in the source zone of the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route; and
providing communication ~~between the pre-planned alternate route~~ between the adjacent destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
routing the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route through a transit zone.
3. (Original) The method of claims 2 further comprising:
requesting new paths to be established between zones.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
establishing new paths to be established between zones.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.
9. (Currently Amended) A network element configured to restore a path in a communication system comprised of:
a processor configured to:
 - establish an inter-zone link with a first border node of a source zone with a second border node of an adjacent destination zone;
 - identify an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the adjacent destination zone;
 - identify a pre-planned alternative route;
 - inform a ~~source/destination~~ node in of the adjacent destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;
 - inform a node in the source zone of the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route;
 - and
 - provide communication ~~between the pre-planned alternate route~~ between the adjacent destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.
10. (Currently Amended) The network element of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to:
route the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route through a transit zone.
11. (Original) The network element of claim 10 wherein the processor is further configured to:
request new paths to be established between zones.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The network element of claim 11 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The network element of claim 10 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

14. **(Original)** The network element of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to:

establish new paths to be established between zones.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The network element of claim 14 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The network element of claim 9 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a computer readable medium coupled to the processor; and

computer code, encoded in the computer readable medium, configured to cause the

processor to:

establish an inter-zone link with a first border node of a source zone with a second

border node of an adjacent destination zone;

identify an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the adjacent

destination zone;

identify a pre-planned alternative route;

inform a ~~source/destination~~ node in of the adjacent destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;

inform a node in the source zone of the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route;

and

provide communication ~~between the pre-planned alternate route~~ between the adjacent destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 17 wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:
route the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route through a transit zone.

19. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 18 wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:
request new paths to be established between zones.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 19 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 18 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

22. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 17 wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:
establish new paths to be established between zones.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 22 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 17 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

25. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system comprising:

means for establishing an inter-zone link with a first border node of a source zone with a second border node of an adjacent destination zone;

means for identifying an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the adjacent destination zone;

means for identifying a pre-planned alternative route;

means for informing a ~~source/destination~~ node in ~~of~~ the adjacent destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route

means for informing a node in the source zone of the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route; and

means for providing communication ~~between the pre-planned alternate route~~ between the adjacent destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system of claim 25 further comprising:

means for routing the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route through a transit zone.

27. **(Original)** The apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system of claim 26 further comprising:

means for requesting new paths to be established between zones.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system of claim 27 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

29. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system of claim 26 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

30. (Original) The apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system of claim 25 further comprising:

means for establishing new paths to be established between zones.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system of claim 30 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system of claim 25 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

33. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product, encoded in computer readable media, comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to establish an inter-zone link with a first border node of a source zone with a second border node of an adjacent destination zone;

a second set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to identify an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the adjacent destination zone;

a third set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to identify a pre-planned alternative route;

a fourth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to inform a ~~source/destination~~ node in of the adjacent destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;

a fifth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to inform a node in the source zone of the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route; and

a sixth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to provide communication ~~between the pre-planned alternate route~~ between the adjacent destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.

34. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of claim 33, encoded in computer readable media, further comprising:

a seventh set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to provide routing the pre-planned ~~preplanned~~ alternative route through a transit zone.

35. **(Original)** The computer program product of claim 34, encoded in computer readable media, further comprising:

an eighth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to request new paths to be established between zones.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of 35 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of 34 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of claim 33, encoded in computer readable media, further comprising:

a seventh ~~ninth~~ set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to establish new paths to be established between zones.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of 38 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of 33 wherein the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on class of service requirements.

41. **(New)** The method of claim 1 further comprising:
identifying an intra-zone failure within at least one of said source zone and said adjacent destination zone; and

dynamically identifying an alternative route using a distributed restoration process associated with said at least one of said source zone and said adjacent destination zone.

42 (New) The network element of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to:

identify an intra-zone failure within at least one of said source zone and said adjacent destination zone; and
dynamically identify an alternative route using a distributed restoration process.

43. (New) The computer system of claim 17 wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:

identify an intra-zone failure within at least one of said source zone and said adjacent destination zone; and
dynamically identify an alternative route using a distributed restoration process.

44. (New) The apparatus for restoring a path in a communication system of claim 25 further comprising:

means for identifying an intra-zone failure within at least one of said source zone and said adjacent destination zone; and
means for dynamically identifying an alternative route using a distributed restoration process.

45. (New) The computer program product of claim 33, encoded in computer readable media, further comprising:

a seventh set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to identify an intra-zone failure within at least one of said source zone and said adjacent destination zone; and
an eighth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to dynamically identify an alternative route using a distributed restoration process.